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DDI-199572

DCI/IC-72-0561

13 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : Involvement of the NSCIC and Its
Working Group in the NIE/SNIE
Program

1. This memorandum is in response to your request for comments on a proposed NSCIC project on NIEs.

2. My general reaction to the proposal is that it is a project which the NSCIC Working Group should undertake, not only because it is consistent with the Working Group responsibilities, but also because we would be criticized for not doing so. I share your desire that we could profit from inputs about policy concerns and feedback on the pertinence and worth of the various NIEs produced. I am not very optimistic, however, about getting high-level policy makers to focus on the problem or to participate directly in responding to the questionnaire. Thus we may have to focus on getting evaluations from those officers who, as the principal staffers of the policy-makers, have direct knowledge of the relevance of any given estimate and its actual usefulness to the policy-maker.

3. Next, I would suggest that we make selective tests of the questionnaire on two or three different types of NIEs with a small number of consumer representatives to make sure that it is workable. Such a test is absolutely necessary if we are to be sure that we are asking the right questions, that they are not ambiguous, and that they will yield meaningful responses.

4. I also feel that at the beginning of this evaluation project we should assign a terminal date. We could, for example, plan to have the evaluation questionnaires used on all NIEs produced during a six-month or twelve-month period. We

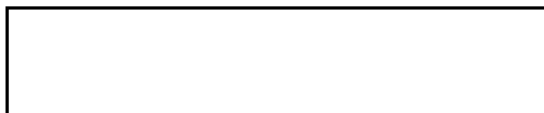
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would then be in a position to determine if the evaluation program should be continued. I am willing to predict right now that an open-ended questionnaire (or one lasting more than a year) would soon become a proforma exercise done by lower echelons, and increasingly useless as a meaningful feedback mechanism.

5. As you know, there are a number of policy-level officials who are directly concerned with the subject matter of many NIEs but are not represented in the NSCIC mechanism. To correct this deficiency, I suggest that explicit provision be made in the draft proposals setting up the evaluation program to allow for the participation of consumers not represented on the NSCIC.

6. Finally, I am attaching a copy of the draft proposal and its tabs with my suggestions for changes in language.



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EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment

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